

**Early Childhood Mental Health Network**  
Request for Proposals (RFP)

Issued by Public Health Solutions on behalf of the  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Issue Date: December 22, 2015

**Contract Awards**

Agency	Service Area
Association to Benefit Children	Bronx Zone 1
The Jewish Board of Family & Children Services, Inc.	Bronx Zone 2
The Jewish Board of Family & Children Services, Inc.	Brooklyn Zone 1
OHEL Children’s Home & Family Services, Inc.	Brooklyn Zone 2
Northside Center for Child Development, Inc.	Manhattan
Staten Island Mental Health Society, Inc.	Staten Island
The Child Center of NY, Inc.	Queens
<b>Technical Assistance and Training Center</b>	
New York Center for Child Development	Citywide

**Background and Purpose:** The early years in life are critical for physical and social-emotional health (Zero to Three, 2015)<sup>i</sup>. The current capacity of the New York City (NYC) mental health service system is insufficient to meet the mental health needs of young children in NYC. As such, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) developed this RFP in collaboration with Public Health Solutions to establish a network of Early Childhood Mental Health services and professional supports in NYC, with the ultimate goal of increasing availability of mental health services for children with high-level mental health needs in two large early care and education systems: EarlyLearn and universal pre-kindergarten (UPK) programs. The network will provide mental health support for EarlyLearn and UPK children and their families.

Contractors awarded from this RFP, listed above, form the network and are tasked with activities including:

- Improving the mental health and functioning of children ≤ 5 years old in NYC with emphasis on children enrolled in EarlyLearn and UPK programs and living in high-need neighborhoods,

by establishing specialized centers that provide timely access to mental health treatment for children and caregivers

- Prioritizing referral and treatment source for the entire population of children age 5 and under enrolled at EarlyLearn and UPK programs in NYC
- Being available for community referrals outside of the two systems
- Providing short-term onsite mental health consultation to children, families and staff at center-based EarlyLearn sites
- Reducing mental health disparities for young children in communities that are disproportionately impacted by socioeconomic disadvantage, and where families are at greatest risk

#### Technical Assistance and Training Center:

- Providing clinical training and practice evidence-based, relational treatment approaches that work with caregivers and children as a unit
- Enhancing the capabilities of competencies of the ECMH workforce
- Enhancing mental health clinicians currently working in clinics and professionals in early care and education settings
- Providing technical assistance, quality improvement and learning forums

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<sup>i</sup> Zero to Three. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/117-how-to-prevent-mental-health-problems-begin-at-the-beginning-with-infants-toddlers>